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March 21, 2007

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance convened on March 21, 2007, with Chairman Maryann Heuston presiding and Committee Members Aldermen Bruce Desmond, Walter Pero, Dennis Sullivan and Robert Trane also present and voting. Also present were Alderman William White, Finance Director Ed Bean, Health Director Noreen Burke, Michael Lambert from the Mayor's Office, Anne Thomas, Steve Winslow, Mark Freidman and Maria Ortiz from SPCD and John Correira.

182810 – request to abandon land

The committee discussed a request by the mayor to abandon a 343 square foot parcel of land at Assembly Square. According to the Assessor's Office, the value of this vacant, unbuildable lot is \$20,400. Ms. Thomas told the committee that the property, which was a public way that has been abandoned, is not subject to public disposition because the value is less than \$25,000. Federal Realty Investment Trust owns the property around the parcel in question and Alderman Desmond asked that they be given the first opportunity to purchase the parcel.

182812 – request to transfer \$5,000

The committee discussed a request to transfer \$5,000 from the Condominium Review Board Salaries Account to the SPCD Parks Reconstruction Account. The funds were allocated in a block grant, but because the census figures at the time, (1990), vs. the 2000 census have changed, the city cannot leverage all of the available funds in grant improvements without approval of this request.

182814 – 2007 BIO International Convention

Ms. Ortiz informed the members that Somerville's participation in this Life Sciences convention would be an opportunity for the city to generate business by informing companies of our close proximity to Cambridge and Boston. The city would have a booth at the convention funded by a \$5,700 grant from Federal Realty Investment Trust.

The committee discussed matters before it and took action on the following 5 items:

182810: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval for the City to abandon a small triangle of land in Assembly Sq.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved with conditions (Mayor is strongly urged to sell property to the abutter)

VOTE: Unanimous, 5 - 0 in favor

182812: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval of a \$5,000 transfer from

the Condominium Review Board Salaries Acct. to the SPCD Parks
Reconstruction Acct.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 5 - 0 in favor

182814: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to expend a \$5,700 grant from Federal Realty Investment Trust to fund the City's participation in the 2007 BIO International Convention.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 5 - 0 in favor

182815: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to pay a prior year invoice of \$325 from Ronco Communications for work completed at Fire Prevention and at East Somerville Community School.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 5 - 0 in favor

182816: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval of a one-year extension of the recycling contract with Casella Waste (FCR Recycling).

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 5 - 0 in favor

Alderman Maryann Heuston, Chairman
Committee on Finance

COMMITTEE REPORT

Report of the Committee on Finance, March
21, 2007

In Board of Aldermen

Clerk